

paragraph, with the specific rejection being that "it appears that the dependency of this claim is improper because this claim depends on a cancelled Claim 3. This claim should be dependent on Claim 1. There were no other bases of rejection cited for these two claims with respect to anticipation or obviousness. Applicants amended the form of claims 8 and 32 to reflect the proper dependency on Claim 1.

The objection as to improper "antecedent basis" with respect to claim 49 was also corrected in Applicants' prior response. Again there was no rejection of this claim in view of art. The rejection was solely a 112 rejection. The objection was cured by rewording of the dependency.

In answer to the Examiner's objection as to claim 60, said claim is merely claiming a plurality (i.e., more than one) of the structures defined in, for example, claim 1. The term "array" means an orderly grouping or arrangement. The present invention relates to a method for making an inter-connector to couple an electric module to a circuit board. The invention provides a probe structure that is an integral part of the fan-out wiring on the test substrate or other printed wiring means to minimize the electrical conductor length as well as contact resistance of the probe interface. The probe is provided with a compliant interface to compensate for slight variations in the rigid bond pad heights on the IC device and variations in the height of the probe contacts. The object in Claim 60 is to cover an electronic system wherein more than one assembly is used to test an item.

A "probe" is defined as "a pointed metal tip used for making electrical contact with a circuit element being checked." [*Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary* (1983) page 937.] The present invention is directed to structures useful as probes for testing of electrical interconnections to integrated circuit devices and other electronic components. Referring to Figures 1 and 2, for example, the probe (10) comprising the connecting elements 13, 14, 15 and 16 between the test substrate (11) and the integrated circuit device (30). Any of the drawings e.g. Figures 1, 2, 4, 5-7, 10, 12, 14, 15, etc., which depict the connecting elements illustrate the "probes." This

description of the term "probe" is consistent with the text in the specification found on page 14, lines 1-7. The drawings cited are relevant as they depict a "plurality" (i.e., more than one) of probes.

The "plurality of probes" is depicted also in Figure 14 as comprising elements 13, 14, 15 and 16. These drawing is pertinent as it depicts a "plurality" (i.e., more than one) probe.

In view of the interpretation normally attributed to the words "plurality" and "array," one could assert that the use of both terms is redundant. For that reason reference to "array" has been deleted.

The balance of the rejected claims has been canceled.

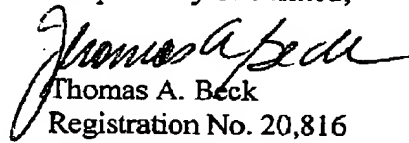
Applicants' attorney has attempted to explain the allowability of unallowed claims 8, 32, 49 and 60. As noted previously, these claims are not rejected on art asserting anticipation or obviousness. They have been rejected solely on matters of form. If the Examiner believes that Applicants' attorney is in error with respect to his contentions as to these five claims, Applicants' attorney would be willing to discuss the matter with the Examiner by telephone at a mutually convenient time. This amendment is submitted in good faith and not for purposes of delay.

Applicants are responding promptly to the Examiner's Advisory Action within the one month period allowed to enable the Examiner to consider Applicants' comments as to Claims 8, 32, 49 and 60 before cancelling these claims. Applicants point out that they have denoted the status of Claims 8, 32, 49 and 60 as "Currently Amended" since the Examiner did not enter the previously filed amendment so these claims are not "Previously Presented."

Applicants are canceling the claims herein without prejudice and with the express reservation that they can file a continuation application on these canceled claims.

In view of the arguments and modifications to the claims, allowance of this case is warranted.
Such favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

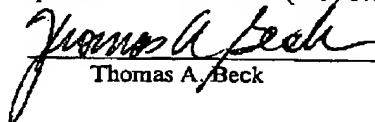


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent Office Examiner responsible for this case at (703) 872 - 9306.

February 10, 2005


Thomas A. Beck

-4-

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